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From: McDonell, Mike (OPP)[Mike.McDonell@opp.ca]
Sent: Sat 2/19/2022 2:00:02 PM (UTC-05:00)
Subject: FW: DRAFT NOTES

Commissioner, please find below OPS Interim Chief BELL's Talking Points for the Press Conference presently scheduled for 1530hrs.

Mike

*Mike McDonell, Supt.,
Ontario Provincial Police
Bureau Commander,
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Off: [REDACTED] Mob: [REDACTED]*

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Subject: DRAFT NOTES

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IC Bell's notes for 3:30 p.m.

John

**February 19, 2022
3:30pm Media
Chief Bell Speaking Notes to Media**

Thank you Param.

Bonjour a Tous.

Today we made more important progress in safely removing this unlawful protest from our streets.

At every step in this operation we have been up front and clear with the unlawful protesters that they must leave the area.

We have advised them of every approach we were taking so they could continue to make informed decisions.

We have backed up those warnings with a deliberate and methodical operation using lawful and safe tactics.

The officers on ground have showed patience and professionalism.

They are well trained and experienced and they needed all of that expertise to bring about the conclusion we are seeing.

At every step they faced a barrage of assaults, resistance, shoving and vitriol.

We continued to ask protestors to leave as we work towards our goal of ending the unlawful occupation peacefully and safely.

Some protestors were aggressive with officers and the horses. As a result, we responded this morning by adding helmets and batons to our equipment for the safety of our officers.

This morning, you saw the public orders units on the ground sweep across the downtown core from east to west and move demonstrators out of the Parliamentary precinct.

Our officers faced resistance at every step.

At one point flares were ignited and officers used a chemical irritant – sometimes known as pepper spray – to disperse unlawful demonstrators who were assaulting police lines.

This is tough work.

Police officers are human beings. They are doing what they have been trained to do. They have demonstrated unparalleled discipline, restraint, and the utmost professionalism.

I commend them for their actions yesterday and throughout the day today.

I am proud of them all.

We again saw young children being brought to the front of the police operation. This is dangerous and it is putting the children at risk.

Today we arrested XX people, bringing the total so far to XX.

As we took back streets City of Ottawa Crews and other vehicles came in to clean up and tow away equipment and vehicles.

We know that the increased police presence may be distressing to some. They are here to keep you safe and complete our mission.

To the residents of the downtown core: your safety is our priority. We know you have been through a lot and we are committed to returning your streets back normal.

Today, we have seen protestors launch gas at officers and have seen the use of devices that emit smoke.

The police response has been, and continues to be, centered on public and officer safety. We ask that everyone remain peaceful.

In some cases they were forced to use a distraction device and OC spray – sometimes referred to as pepper spray – on some demonstrators to get them to move.

XX were arrested, bringing the total arrests to XX so far.

This is an Ottawa Police-led operation but this is a Canadian effort.

We have officers from across the province and country here to help us.

Every cop out there is proud to be here. Police have a vital role in our democracy and this operation shows our institution's commitment and ability to maintain a lawful society.

But we could not do this without the support of the community we serve.

All levels of government – the federal, provincial and municipal -- have contributed to this effort.

By working together, we are showing the strength of our democracy.

To downtown residents: We are focused on your safety.

We are aware protestors leaving the security zone may now be in surrounding neighbourhoods. We are working along with partners to remove protestors peacefully from your area.

I also want to thank Ottawa residents for their patience and support as they watch this operation unfold. The operation continues to progress according to plan.

We are firmly committed to ensuring that those who have engaged in the unlawful occupation will be held accountable in the days, weeks, and months to come as we continue our investigations.

We have been in regular contact with the City and members of city council. We have already begun discussions and planning on how we will work towards ensuring that our communities are restored to their prior state.

I am available to take questions.